MINUTES FOR NAPRA GENERAL MEETING APR 13th

I. Called to order by Ken, N7IPB, President at 1:06 PM at the BEARS shack in Runton. Introductions of all in attendance were made. There were 16 people present. (It was a sunny day).

II. Old Business

A. Tech VP Report - Scott N7FSP

1. SEA is back on the air, but is not connected to the backbone. It is probably the 220 transciever bumbed off frequency again. For this reason there is no BBS on the SEA node.

2. The temporary link from OLY to LSO is working good.

3. There is less BBS forwarding going on on the backbone. This is improving keyboard to keyboard connections across the network.

4. Some bugs have been discovered in the TheNET 2.08 software. Work-arounds are being developed and implemented.

5. EVT is back on the air. We are still awaiting new FCRs to correct the location.

B. NAPRA Logo Contest - 6 entries total were received from Dennis, KD7DZ, Steve, N8GNJ, Mark, xxx, Scott, N7FSP, John, KA7TTY, Ken, N7IPB, and Tom, N7KHU. Dennis, KB7DZ, was not able to be in attendance, and had asked to have the vote postponed. After some discussion, it was decided by those in attendance to proceed with the vote as planned. A representation of Dennis' design was presented and included in the vote. The design submitted by Tom, N7KHU, was chosen, and will be appearing on NAPRA paperwork in the near future. Peter, WA7FUS, Treasurer, will send the prize to Tom.

III. New Business

A. Bob, KD7NM, had info for a 56K baud modem which was passed around during the meeting. Ken, N7IPB, had some info on 9600 baud equipment which was also passed around.

B. Tom, N7KHU, who currently is running the Swap BBS of the SEAW node, announced that he will be re-writing Swap BBS software in the near future and was looking for comments on how it is used, how to make it more user friendly, and how to make it work better on the network. He is compiling a wish list of features before he gets started. A few comments were given to Tom, and he stated that he would bring his handy-work back to a NAPRA meeting and let us review it.

C. Dick, N7HHU, from Yakima brought up a concern they were having on the East Side of the state. He refered to an agreement several years ago where the frequencies from 144.91 MHz thru 144.99 MHz were assigned for use on the East Side and 145.01 MHz thru 145.09 MHz were assigned for the West Side. He realizes that some of the "East Side" frequencies are being used on the west side at the present time. The potential problem is that the Search and Rescue community in Eastern Washington is in the process of finding a location and frequency for a SAR Node in the White Pass area. 144.93 MHz is the 2 meter frequency being considered along with some 220 MHz and 440 MHz frequencies.

Scott indicated that we had coordinated Nodes on some of these frequencies and that he amoung others was not aware of the previous agreement. It was agreed

that at this time East and West Side needed to know what was going on on the other side. Scott and Dick agreed to exchange data on Nodes, frequencies locations, etc as a first step. There will need to be more discussions in the future.

D. There was a discussion concerning frequencies being used for simplex keyboard to keyboard packet. Scott, N7FSP, stated that he would like for NAPRA to try to gather information on numbers of people using packet, what frequencies they are using and how often. Scott will also contact the DX-Cluster folks to see how many users they have. We need this information in order to justify using more of the spectrum for packet radio. Dick, N7HHU, stated that part of our problem was definitions. We needed to define the types of users we were going to coordinate before we could make up rules to live by.

E. Steve, N8GNJ, asked that NAPRA approve purchase of a copy of PC File, the shareware database program we are using to keep track of members. He indicated that there were times he needed assistance, and not being registered, he was not able to get it. A motion was made by Board of Directors present to authorize the purchase not to exceed $150, seconded and passed by BOD members present.

G. Scott, N7FSP, moved that we begin sending an acknowledgement postcard to new members so they know their application is being processed. It was seconded. Steve, N8GNJ, Membership Committee Chairman, agreed that that was a good idea and something he could handle. Motion was passed by the Board of Directors members present.

H. Ken, N7IPB, siggested that NAPRA sponsor a High Speed Modem Contest with a prize for the first permanent successful 2 way packet link on 9600 baud or higher. Discussion included setting 2 catagories: above and below 19.2 K baud. A distance of 5 to 10 miles was also suggested. The subject was tabled for future discussion by the Board of Directors.

J. 440 MHz Repeater - Ken, N7IPB, indicated that he was assembling the final set of cables to complete the assembly. He may call for a work party next week to complete the work. He may be able to get the transeiver tuned up next weekend, and just maybe on the air the next (May 2,3).

IV. Meeting was adjourned at 3:13 PM.

John, KA7TTY
Secretary